

APPALACHIAN MEDLEY

The Appalachian Medley engages the senses and recalls the past. It has been appropriately named for the rich history of local music, which is illustrated by the rise and fall of the beautiful hills along the byway — a melody of greatest proportions.

The byway begins on N.C. 209 at Exit 24 on I-40 near Lake Junaluska and Waynesville. Begin following the route by traveling north along N.C. 209. After 1.3 miles, the byway crosses the Pigeon River, which derives its name from the large flocks of pigeons that once lived along its banks. After crossing the river, continue two miles to Crabtree. Beginning a half mile after Crabtree, the byway is closely bordered by the Pisgah National Forest. This forest covers 12 counties and more than one million acres in North Carolina. Also, it is the birthplace of the scientific study of American forestry. For more information about the Pisgah National Forest, contact the U.S. Forest Service. (Contact information is provided on pg. 168.)

Five miles from Crabtree, the byway veers right near Fines Creek.

The creek was named for a scout who was buried in its icy waters. The scout's brother placed his body in the creek to preserve it until the spring thaw. However, when the brother came to retrieve the body, it was nowhere to be found.

The byway enters Madison County at

Betsey's Gap four miles after crossing Fines Creek. Hebo Mountain can be seen to the south and Pug Knob to the north.

The byway, from this point north, is escorted by Spring Creek. **The community of Luck is less than five miles up the road,** and as the locals say, "with Luck comes Trust." Trust, a small community with a general store and cafe, is 1.5 miles past Luck. Guests are welcome to stop in St. Jude's Chapel of Hope.

Following N.C. 209, the surrounding landscape opens into a picturesque valley. **Max Patch Mountain is on the left.** The Appalachian Trail lies across the top of this mountain bald. **Travel a little more than four miles to the Rocky Bluff Recreation Area,** which has picnic facilities, restrooms, campsites and hiking trails.

Hot Springs is about three miles



French Broad River